

University of West Georgia
Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS)
Annual Meeting and Retiree Recognition Reception
10 am, October 29, 2022, Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

Following a 30 minute opportunity for attendees to mingle and enjoy a continental breakfast, President Meg Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and welcomed all those present. She gave special thanks to ARFS supporters including staff members of Human Resources, Printing Services, and University Advancement. She also identified the materials on each table including the meeting agenda, the slate of candidates for the ARFS Coordinating Council, and a list of the three groups of retirees: current retirees for 2021-2022 and the retirees from 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 who due to COVID restrictions at the time were honored via ZOOM rather than an actual reception.

Dr. Brendan Kelly, UWG president, expressed his thanks to ARFS and its members for their service to the institution and noted that their input in helping to solve problems, curating a 645 acre campus, and pouring positivity into the students was much appreciated.

To celebrate their service to the institution, the three 2021-2022 retirees present were honored and presented medallions by Dr. Kelly. They were Anita Bryant (Geosciences), Dale Driver (ITS), and Patricia Durrough (Business Excellence).

Ketty Cusick represented University Advancement and expressed appreciation for ARFS members who contribute financial support to the institution's students. She specifically mentioned contributions to the UWG Retiree Legacy scholarship, a yearly award given to a family member of a UWG retiree; Jordan Wagner, a senior computer science major and son of Dr. Don Wagner, is this year's recipient and was in attendance to receive our congratulations.

Mark Janzen, representing the Center for Public History, indicated that the Center exists to engage graduate students with history. He stated that retirees embody the history of the university through the sharing of oral histories, written histories, and documents relating to history. Retirees are welcome to contact the Center with ideas and suggestions. An upcoming event to which all are invited is a November 16 program on the African American experience at UWG.

Additional business and comments by Meg Cooper, ARFS president, included the following:

- a thank-you to Lauren Niedringhaus, HR, who serves as ARFS liaison, for her support.
- a reminder that issues of *The Rejuvenator*, ARFS' newsletter, are currently sent to 400 members on the ARFS listserv and 200 members through the postal service.
- the ARFS listserv is responsible for publicizing events of interest to retirees and providing information regarding issues of concern to retirees.
- efforts are ongoing to develop a retiree directory since retirees are no longer included in the online directory now restricted to UWG faculty and staff listings.
- ARFS officers represent UWG at GA-HERO (Georgia Higher Education Retiree Organization) meetings, at the national meetings, and at the USG retiree council as well.
- ARFS members participate in the Benefits Fair to talk with prospective retirees.

- there being no nominations from the floor, Meg Cooper, with a second by Kathryn Grams, moved to close the nominations for the slate of candidates who would serve on the 2022-2024 ARFS Coordinating Council. The motion passed. Meg then moved, with a second by Kathryn, that the slate be approved as a whole; that motion passed as well.
- eight members present from the 2019-2020 group of retirees were recognized (Wanda Calhoun, Tammy Crews, Doyle Folds, Laura Mayfield, Mary Reid, Johnnie Samples, Jane Smith, and Nancy Watkins), and five members present from the 2020-2021 group of retirees were recognized (Steven Broome, Kevin Hibbard, Caroline Martin, Dale Walls, and Trish Wells).
- three members of the Coordinating Council whose terms have expired were recognized, thanked for their service, and presented with a certificate of appreciation and a gift: Jimmy Drew, Kathryn Grams, and Diane Williamson.

As the meeting drew to a close, incoming ARFS president Dr. Anne Richards presented a certificate of appreciation and a gift to Dr. Meg Cooper, outgoing ARFS president, for her dedication to the organization and her service, especially during the two years impacted by COVID.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Francie Taylor, Secretary